

**I. The Trials of the Christian Life (vs. 2-4)**

**A. INEVITABLE “when”**

1. All of life is a trial
2. Scripture promises trials for Christians
  - 1 Pet. 4:12
  - 2 Tim. 3:12
  - Acts 14:22
  - 1 Thess. 3:3
  - John 16:33
  - Luke 21:16b-17

**B. VARIABLE “various kinds”**

1. Trials come in all shapes and sizes:
2. Trials in James:
  - Poverty or Riches (we’ll see this in 1:9-11)
  - Persecution (2:6-7)
  - Knowledge
    - Knowing of a need means we must meet it (2:15-17)
    - Knowing enough to teach, means more strict judgment (3:1)
    - Knowing of a moral obligation, means we must meet it (4:17)
  - Suffering for the faith (5:7-11)
  - Taming the Tongue (3:1-9) *can do good & bad*
  - Our energy and ambitions/plans tempt us (4:13-16)
  - Illness of body or mind tries us (5:13-18)

**C. REJOICEABLE “count it all joy”**

1. A repeated pattern in Scripture.
  - 1 Pet. 4:13
  - Rom. 5:3-5
  - Matt. 5:11-12
  - 2 Cor. 7:4b
  - Acts 5:40-41
  - 1 Pet. 1:5-7
2. Should we be “Joyful” in Trial?
3. What is joy

**D. VALUABLE (or productive)**

TRIALS → seen as a TEST → produce ENDURANCE → leads to MATURITY → leads to PROVEN GENUINENESS OF FAITH → gives ASSURANCE & JOY (1 Pet. 1, 2 Pet. 1, 1 Jn. 3:19-21, & Rom. 5:3-5)

## II. The Wisdom {for Trials} Needed (vs. 5-8)

### A. MAN — *Natural reactions to trials*

- Guilt “if only” • Confusion “Why is this happening? Is God punishing me? Does God love me?”
- Fear “What will become of me?” • Anger “How can they do that to me?”
- Envy “Why aren’t they suffering like I am?” • Self-Pity “Won’t somebody feel sorry for me?”
- Hopelessness & Despair “There’s nothing I can do, I’m doomed. I’m trapped and will never get out.”

### B. GOD — *Focus instead on our Great God*

- The “Giving God” • Gives to all • Generously gives • Doesn’t begrudge us

### C. SIMPLE PRAYER

1. Simply Ask
2. Ask in FAITH

## III. The Problem of Riches and Poverty (vs. 9-11)

### A. Economics in light of Eternity (example of handling trials)

1. The Rich Poor – perspective on ultimate riches/standing in Christ. (4:10; 1 Pt. 5:6)
2. The Poor Rich – mindful of their constant need of Christ, bend low at feet of cross
3. Both face a Transient Life, (life is fleeting) – only the Gospel can give hope

### B. The Ultimate Test (jumping ahead to vs. 12)

1. All of life ultimately is a test – passing this test (endurance with faith) gives the crown of life.
2. Crown of life is not just an optional reward – it is LIFE – ETERNAL LIFE Rev. 2:10, 2 Tim. 4:8
3. LIFE is won by those who Endure but who also LOVE (Rom. 5:5)